## N.C. DENR Situation Report 3 p.m. for Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011

WASTE MANAGEMENT PARKS AND RECREATION AQUARIUMS – R, PK, FF REGIONAL OFFICES WATER RESOURCES WATER QUALITY AIR QUALITY COASTAL MANAGEMENT LAND RESOURCES GENERAL COUNSEL MARINE FISHERIES

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

#### **Current Status**

The Solid Waste Section reports that Chris Marriott, City of Durham Solid Waste Director, has called and checked in concerning Temporary Disaster Debris Storage sites (TDDS) in Durham. He says they are getting ready.

The Solid Waste Section's Eastern Staff are working in the field today with local governments along the coast looking at possible disaster sites for approval and confirming pre-approved sites as requested.

The Hazardous Waste Section has nothing new to report/no changes.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

## **Current Situation**

The campground at Medoc Mountain State Park is added to the list of those in eastern N.C. that will be closed Friday and Saturday nights. One of those – primitive campsites on Bear Island at Hammocks Beach – will be closed Thursday and Sunday nights as well. The other affected state parks are: Lumber River, Jones Lake, Lake Waccamaw, Carolina Beach, Pettigrew, Merchants Millpond, Goose Creek.

Field supervisory staff have determined what field staff throughout the state will be available for response through the weekend, including those available to be shifted from their normal duty station.

Staff have inventoried response equipment to ensure necessary items are at hand and in good working order.

#### **Operational Priorities**

Operations supervisors will begin to determine which state parks in eastern N.C. may be closed to the public and the timing of those closings. A conference call to discuss that plan is scheduled for 3 p.m. today

Those state parks nearest the projected path of the storm will begin to secure equipment and facilities to the extent possible and devise a communications plan with park staff and district staff for after-storm response.

## **AQUARIUMS**

## N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island (NCARI)

#### **Current Situation**

- Aquarium curators and managers met at 1:30 p.m. to go over final preparations, which are 90 percent complete.
- Aquarium Gift Shop staff have left the Aquarium due to facility closure.
- All animals are being moved from the Wetland on the Edge exhibit to the quarantine building.
- Jennette's Pier is closed due to mandatory evacuation of visitors and director's order.
- Preparations are in progress to secure all items on the pier. Porch swing, tables, etc.
- All gas and non-essential items are being turned off.
- Trash cans and other items in the parking lot are being move to a secure area.

## **Operational Priorities**

- NCARI is closed due to mandatory evacuation order and direction of our director.
- Maintain current staffing until the end of the work day, Aug. 25, 2011.

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- Mandatory evacuation of Dare County residents has been officially ordered to start 8 a.m. on Friday, August 26, 2011. At that time individual staff will verbally report to their supervisor whether they are staying or leaving the area during the hurricane.
- To continue to make preparations for the hurricane arrival.
- Only essential staff is on site at Jennette's Pier.
- At this time it is no known who will remain on-site during the storm.

#### N.C. Aquarium on Pine Knolls Shore

#### **Current Situation**

Action taken: The Aquarium closed at 1 p.m. today when Carteret County announced mandatory evacuation for visitors and non-residents of Bogue Banks.

## **Operational Priorities**

Staff is completing all hurricane protection preparations. Data back-up and securing of electronic equipment underway.

## N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher

## **New From Situation Report #1:**

- Removed collection vessels (boats) from water and staged them for movement to safe off-site location.
- Installed new louver system on emergency generator building to prevent damage to generators by wind-driven rain and saltwater.

## REGIONAL OFFICES

No new information from Fayetteville, Raleigh and Wilmington regional offices.

## Washington Regional Office

- The divisions housed in the Washington Regional Office have met with their staff and taking necessary steps in preparing for possible flooding.
- Plans have been made to move vehicles to higher ground on Friday. And to make sure all office equipment will be covered with plastic. Command Center will be up and ready for necessary divisions use on Friday, August 26.

#### WATER RESOURCES

No new information

## **AIR QUALITY**

## **Current Situation:**

- DAQ staff monitoring storm progress and forecasted track.
- Staff assembling materials to protect computers, monitors and other electronic equipment from potential wind and water damage.
- Air monitoring staff met Thursday morning to assess forecast storm track and decided to deactivate any
  equipment that could potentially be damaged by high winds and flooding.
- Staff has begun the process of shutting down and securing all air monitors east of I-95.

## **Operational Priorities:**

- Staff in Fayetteville, Raleigh, Wilmington and Washington regional offices plan to shut down and secure any atrisk monitoring equipment by noon on Friday.
- Staff in all affected regions will take actions to protect computers and other electronic equipment before leaving work Friday.
- Staff in all affected regions plan to move state vehicles from flood-prone areas to higher ground.

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• Teresa Colon of DAQ air toxics will be assisting with Spanish translations for the Governor's hotline from 6 a.m. to 2:30 pm on Friday.

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **Current Situation:**

- Staff is on standby, preparing for post-storm activities. All district offices are currently open and operational. Staff
  has been advised to have all vehicles fueled and ready for use. Staff is preparing for any damage assessments and
  needed recovery efforts.
- NOAA/NCNERR offices on Pivers Island in Beaufort will close this afternoon. Rachel Carson Reserve staff and Reserve headquarters are located in this facility.
- DCM Elizabeth City office has made arrangements with the town of Nags Head to set up a temporary office at Nags Head Town Hall if needed for emergency purposes.
- Five coastal reserve sites will closed to the public effective Friday, Aug. 26:
  - Currituck Banks National Estuarine Research Reserve near Corolla
  - Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve in Kitty Hawk
  - Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge Coastal Reserve in Columbia
  - Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve on Hatteras Island
  - Rachel Carson National Estuarine Research Reserve in Beaufort

## **Operational Priorities:**

- Preparing vehicles for use; preparing for post-storm recovery efforts.
- Coordinating with local governments on anticipated post-storm recovery needs.

## LAND RESOURCES

## **Current Situation**

Land Quality Section – Dam Safety Program

- Fayetteville Regional Office staff are collecting emergency equipment and supplies;
- Emergency contact numbers being distributed; and
- Vehicles are being fueled.

## Previous Situational Report Information

- Dam Safety staff was briefed and a staffing plan for all personnel was established.
- Fifteen to eighteen, 2-person Dam safety response teams have been identified. (Teams are from regional offices as well as headquarters office.)
- Three regional offices expecting impacts (Fayetteville, Washington, Wilmington) were briefed on response to dam safety emergencies

#### **Operational Priorities**

Staff EOC with most of headquarters' personnel to permit rookies to be better equipped to use equipment as well as obtain additional training on NC Sparta.

#### **MARINE FISHERIES**

#### **Current Status**

DMF General Activities, Staff, Equipment, Buildings

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- A Marine Patrol airplane located in a hangar in New Bern has been designated for potential assessment flyovers after the storm passes and weather and flight facilities allow. (Please note, sometimes airspace in areas of disaster can be restricted and the pilot will have to be granted access before assessments can take place).
- Nine Marine Patrol officers are staged for standby to go where ever response is needed after weather conditions allow.
- Most equipment and facility securing activities are being finalized and a lot of staff are leaving to secure items at home. Several staff live in areas under evacuation and are having to evacuate.

#### **Future Plans**

DMF management is in discussions with DENR management on deciding an appropriate time to close DMF facilities and release staff to ensure staff are in a safe location before conditions worsen. Once that decision is made, DENR ITS may shut down IT operations before COB on Friday as indicated earlier. In addition, the Marine Patrol Communications center may be shut down at a designated time on Friday (TBD).

## WATER QUALITY

## **Current Status**

DWQ central office and regional office personnel conducted a conference call on Wednesday, Aug. 24 to:

- Identify Incident Command personnel for central offices and each region.
- Review pre-hurricane preparations for offices.
- Review procedure for emergency purchases and other potential costs.
- Review documentation required if incident is identified as national disaster.
- Discuss daily status reporting requirements and procedures.
- Discuss procedure for tasking additional personnel if needed for water quality monitoring and testing.

Emergency response personnel contact list has been sent out via e-mail.

Regional office personnel are calling and visiting regulated facilities to survey current status, identify any potential problems and provide technical advice for hurricane preparation.

Regional and central offices are beginning to prepare workplace facilities against possibility of flooding or other weather related damage.

#### **Future Plans**

Another conference call of central and regional office incident command personnel is scheduled for Friday morning, Aug. 26

## NCDENR GENERAL COUNSEL

## **Current Situation: Preparing for hurricane landfall**

- Action Taken: DENR/General Counsel Placed Hurricane folder on shared drive
- Action Taken: DENR/General Counsel Identified CAMA approvals available for post-hurricane work (repair when damage <50%; dune walkovers, accessory buildings, and homes on estuary if >40 feet from high water; emergency work for public utilities, roads and erosion control devices; beach bulldozing; replacing existing bridges and culverts; Secretary's discretion to issue permit for replacing damaged structure outside Ocean Hazard AEC like docks and piers, dune reconstruction, and maintenance excavation)
- Action Taken: DENR/General Counsel Advised on liability for injuries to reporters covering the storm from Jennette's Pier seek waiver and request copy of certificate of insurance if decide to allow

### **Operational Priorities:**

- Actions taking: Preparing General Permit approval for Secretary
- Actions taking: Updating list of other permits/approvals available for post-hurricane work such as removing debris from streams, disposing of waste in temporary landfills, and open burning.